

Continuity of Care Advisory Panel
Social Workgroup Minutes
October 18, 2013

Meeting held at the Office of Forensic Services (DHMH)
11:00 – 1:00

I. Attendees

- a. Kait Roe (Fuse Health Strategies)
- b. Nevitt Steele, Esq.
- c. Stacy Reid-Swain, Esq. (DHMH)
- d. Darrell Nearon, PhD, JD (DHMH)
- e. Rianna Brown, JD (DHMH)
- f. Clarissa Netter – Co Chair
- g. Anita Smith-Everett – Co Chair
- h. Herb Cromwell CBH
- i. Lois Fisher, Esq. Public Defender's Office
- j. Jamie Miller – Value Options

Presenter

Laura Cain, Esq. Maryland Disability Law Center

The individual attendees introduced themselves and their respective organizational affiliations. The presentation was on racial disparities and the impact on continuity of care. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation will be available to the workgroup. A brief synopsis of the presentation is provided.

- 1. From a historical perspective, racial disparities can be traced back to slavery
- 2. Dr. King Davis is a noted expert on racial disparities in hospital settings
- 3. African Americans are diagnosed with schizophrenia 2 times more than non African Americans
- 4. Due to bias, African Americans are not recruited or involved in clinical trials
- 5. There are barriers to voluntary commitment. Some barriers include lack of resources, distrust of the system, lack of African American mental health professionals and the experience of coercion.

At the conclusion of the presentation, workgroup members engaged in question and answer with the presenter and amongst themselves. The workgroup discussed how to structure the upcoming presentation to the full Advisory Group on 10/23/13. It was agreed that the format should mirror that of today's agenda. A discussion on the following topics with recommendations will comprise the presentation.

Geographic barriers
Transportation
Housing
Gender/Identity

Language/Culture
Race

The workgroup will receive additional assistance from DHMH workgroup members in preparation for the presentation. The workgroup agreed to meet for an additional hour on 10/21 to prepare for the presentation.

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM.

The next scheduled meeting for the Social Workgroup is **October 21, 2013- 10:00 to 1:00 at the Office of Forensic Services.**

Prepared by

Darrell Nearon, PhD, JD
10/18/2013